

**Thomas Jefferson to William Short, January 18,
1826, from the Thomas Jefferson and William Short
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Thomas Jefferson to William Short

Monticello Jan. 18.26

Dear Sir

Yours of the 11th is recieved. Those of Nov. 2 and Dec.14 have been so in due time. I suppose I had not acknoleged them specifical from being too lazy to recur to them while writing mine of the 3d. I thank you for your information from Mr. Boyd and shall desire the instruments to remain in their present position until I can find a safe and public conveyance and give an order for them. The Russian discourse was duly reviewed and was read with the feelings [they] it would naturally create in the breast of a friend to the Rights of Man. On the subject of emancipation I have ceased to think because not to be a work of my day. The plan of converting the blacks into Serfs would certainly be better than keeping them in their present condition, but I consider that of expatriation to the governments of the W.I. of their own colour as entirely practicable, and greatly preferable to the mixture of colour here, to this I have great aversion; but I repeat my abandonment of the subject. My health is at present as good as I ever expect it to be, and I am ever and affectionately yours, TH. Jefferson

RC (Jefferson Papers, DLC)